

Message Text

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USMISSION NATO

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TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: A SOCIALIST VIEWPOINT

1. YOUNG SOCIALIST LEADER, CLOSE TO DEMARTINO, GAVE EMBOFF
FOLLOWING PSI ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION:

A. PSI IN THE SHORT TERM HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE
TO INSIST ON THE LINE IT TOOK IN THE CAMPAIGN, THAT IS,
INCLUSION OF THE PCI IN THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJORITY. TO THIS
END, IT WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO INSIST ON COLLEGIAL MEETINGS
OF THE PARTIES (EXCLUDING MSI-DN, AND, POSSIBLY, THE EXTREME
LEFT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT. HE FULLY
EXPECTS THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, NOW

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SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12, TO REAFFIRM THESE POSITIONS.

THE PARTY IS UNITED ON THEM.

B. EVENTUALLY, HE AUGURS THE FORMATION OF THE DC-ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT TO WHICH THE COMMUNISTS, BY AGREEMENT, WOULD GIVE BENEVOLENT ABSTENTION. THE PSI WOULD CERTAINLY BE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY VOTING "YES," BUT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER IT WOULD ENTER THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF. HE FULLY EXPECTS THE PCI TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A SOLUTION, BUT REFUSED TO HYPOTHESIZE WHAT THE DC'S FINAL ATTITUDE WOULD BE.

C. REGARDING THE PARTY'S INTERNAL SITUATION, HE SAID ONE THING IS CERTAIN: DEMARTINO WILL NOT BE REPLACED. A LARGE MAJORITY IN THE PARTY IS AGAINST A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AT THIS TIME. THE QUESTION OF DEPUTY SECRETARIES IS STILL TO BE RESOLVED. HE FORESAW THAT THE PSI, LIKE THE FRENCH PARTY, WILL DECIDE TO HAVE NONE. (NOTE: BETTINO CRAXI, THE SOLE HOLDOVER DEPUTY SECRETARY AFTER MOSCA'S RESIGNATION, HAS JUST BEEN NAMED THE PSI'S GROUP LEADER IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.)

2. LOOKING BACK TO THE RESULTS OF JUNE 20, HE SAID THE DC'S ELECTORAL REBOUND ON THE BASIS OF AN ANTI-COMMUNIST PLATFORM KILLED THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE, DEFINED AS AN "INSTITUTIONALIZED DC-PCI POLITICAL AGREEMENT." THE DC IS NOW A MORE CONSERVATIVE PARTY THAN IT WAS BEFORE; TO BETRAY ITS ELECTORATE WOULD BE TO SIGN ITS OWN DEATH WARRANT.

3. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE LONGER TERM, HE SAW THIS AS A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT. HE FEARED THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE MUCH MORE THAN THE ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT. THE ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT WOULD MEAN THAT ITALIAN DEMOCRACY HAD DEVELOPED INTO A SYSTEM IN WHICH TWO GROUPINGS ALTERNATED IN CONTROLLING THE GOVERNMENT. THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE WOULD MEAN THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW REGIME FROM WHICH THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE OF EJECTING THE COMMUNISTS.

4. OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS THE PSI FACES POLITICAL
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EXTINCTION. THE PCI HAS ABLY TAKEN OVER ALL OF THE SOCIALIST POSITIONS. HE WAS NOT OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO A MERGER OF THE TWO PARTIES TO FORM A GRAND WESTERN SOCIALIST PARTY. BUT IT WAS NOW THE PSI'S TASK TO FORCE THE PCI TO FACE UP TO ITS CONTRADICTIONS AND BECOME COMPLETELY SOCIALIST, ESPECIALLY ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. IT MUST LOOSEN ITS TIES TO MOSCOW AND WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE "THIRD INTERNATIONAL."

5. IN PASSING, SOCIALIST SOURCE OFFERED AN INTERESTING INSIGHT INTO ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILED AT JULY 3 MEETING OF THE SIX PARTIES AT WHICH DIVISION OF PARLIAMENTARY SPOILS WAS DECIDED. HE SAID THAT MATTERS PROCEEDED SO SMOOTHLY THAT EVERYTHING WAS SETTLED WITHIN ONE-HALF HOUR. COMMUNISTS AS USUAL SHOWED THEMSELVES TO BE MORE PRAGMATIC AND MODERATE THAN THE SOCIALISTS. WHEN DEMARTINO QUERIED ZACCAGNINI WHO WOULD BE DC'S NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT OF SENATE, INTENDING TO PRECLUDE FANFANI, BERLINGUER BROKE IN TO SAY THAT CHOICE WAS ENTIRELY UP TO DC AND WOULD BE ACCEPTED. IN THE EVENT, SOURCE SAID HE WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT ALL PCI SENATORS VOTED FOR FANFANI IN THE BALLOTING.VOLPE

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